

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee...  
My name is Sandy McGennis. As an outreach consultant for deaf and hard of hearing children my travels around Montana take me to:

Sidney, Plentywood, Nashua, Malta, Havre, Columbus, Laurel, Harlowton, Alder, Darby, Corvallis, Whitefish and Eureka, among other cities.

Since small school districts can not afford to attract and retain a teacher of the deaf, the School for the Deaf and the Blind provides outreach services to all of MT.

Some of the needs I address are:

Help find a sign language interpreter in a small school district in north central MT

Set up a family advisor for a 17 year old mother with a 5 month old baby deafened by meningitis

Help write a transition program for a high school senior  
Work with a family to gain skills that will make the most of their 2 year old daughter's cochlear implant

Help a small school district on the Hi-Line evaluate the effectiveness of the classroom sound field system used with a first grade student

Help a young couple prioritize the needs for their multiply handicapped infant

Counsel a middle school student on the cause of his deafness and the educational modifications needed in his classroom

In-service school staff on appropriate accommodations for a new hard of hearing student in their district

Set up a home program for a 3 year old in a remote mountain home in southwestern MT

Help write service plans for home based early intervention programs for deaf infants

